

10/083,717
December 27, 2004

BOX AF

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the attention accorded in the present application. In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, allowance is respectfully requested. By the previous office action, claims 23-25 have been withdrawn. New claims 26-28 have been presented for consideration.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-8, 13-14 and 20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 58-019866-A (JP '866). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP '866 or under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over JP '866. Applicants respectfully disagree. The fibers used in JP '866 are iron fibers coated with nickel. The iron fibers serve as a current collector, rather than as an active material.

None of the art cited by the Examiner or presented by Applicants in the IDS submitted on May 6, 2004 disclose or suggest:

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 and 4-14 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 856 898 A2 (EP '898). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP '898 or under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over EP '898. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '898 in view of US Patent No. 6,093,503. Applicants respectfully disagree. The graphite fibers used in EP '898 serve as a current collector, rather than as an active material (column 4, lines 9-17). Further, the Examiner has set forth that "[t]he motivation for using graphite fiber is that it provides a suitable electrochemically inert, electrically conductive active material support". As used in claim 1, the "active" conductive material is not electrochemically inert, rather forms part of the active electrode material.

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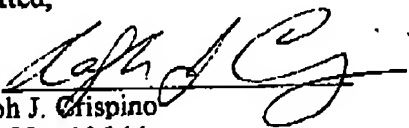
The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 and 8-11, 14 and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,819,413 (US '413). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US '413 or under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US '413. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is respectfully submitted that the fibers disclosed in the abstract serve as a current collector, rather than as an active material.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that none of the art cited by the Examiner or presented by Applicants in the IDS submitted on May 6, 2004 disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter.

No new matter has been presented by this request for reconsideration. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Ralph J. Crispino
Reg. No. 46,144

REVEO, INC.
Customer Number 26665
3 Westchester Plaza
Elmsford, New York 10523
Telephone (914) 345-9555
Facsimile: (914) 345-9558

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